

The Identity of *Collocalia maxima* Hume

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In course of study of the difficult genus *Collocalia* in the Indo-Chinese countries, I have investigated the status of the name *Collocalia maxima* Hume, which first appeared as a *nomen nudum* in *Stray Feathers* 4: 223, 1876, attached to two specimens from "Mergui, Bankasoon", Tenasserim.

Its next mention was in *Stray Feathers* 6: 49, 1878, where, under *Collocalia innominata* (No. "103 ter"), Hume remarked as follows: "In my list, S.F., IV., 223, I mentioned a *Collocalia* under the name of *Collocalia maxima*. I had then only two specimens from Tenasserim, adults, and did not recognise their identity with *C. innominata*, which was described, as it now appears, from an immature specimen. Having now obtained other specimens, old and young, male and female, I find that the Bankasoon birds are *innominata*". This statement is followed by a very full description wholly based upon adult skins from Tenasserim.

Hume's action of 1878 seems to have been generally overlooked, and *maxima* was next to appear in *Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum* 16: 503, 1892, where it was listed by Hartert, with citation from 1876, as a synonym of *innominata*, 1873, here fully described on a composite series of Hume's specimens from Tenasserim (seven) and the Andaman Islands (one).

Finally, Peters (*Check-list of Birds of the World* 4: 222, 1940) cites *Collocalia maxima* "Hume" Hartert, 1892, as a synonym of "*Collocalia (fuciphaga?) innominata* Hume".

I wish to deal with the identity of the true *Collocalia innominata* Hume, 1873 (Andaman Islands) in a separate paper, but it may here be categorically affirmed that *Collocalia innominata* Hume, 1873 (Andaman Islands) is not even conspecific with *Collocalia "innominata"* Hume, 1878 (Mergui, Bankasoon), and since the later name is a homonym of the earlier one, the name *maxima* Hume, 1878, its synonym based upon some of the same type specimens, becomes available for the Tenasserim series.

Hume did not specify the number of Tenasserim birds before him, but Hartert in 1892 listed five adult males and one adult female from Bankasoon, and one adult female from Mergui, all Davison-collected skins of the Hume Collection, all taken earlier than June 1878, all labelled by Hume himself as No. "103 ter", and therefore all to be considered as cotypes of *Collocalia "innominata" (maxima)* Hume, 1878 (Tenasserim). The seven, belonging to a single form, are still preserved in London, and four of them, courteously lent me by Mr. J. D. Macdonald, are now before me in Washington. They are unquestionably representative of the swiftlet currently known as *Collocalia lowi robinsoni* Stresemann (*Bull. Raffles Mus.* 6: 83 (*nomen nudum*!), 98, 1931).

This discovery necessitates some alterations in nomenclature as follows:

"*Collocalia lowi robinsoni* Stresemann, 1931" (Peters, *op. cit.*, p. 222) becomes *Collocalia maxima maxima* Hume, 1878.

"*Collocalia lowi lowi* (Sharpe), 1879" (Peters, *ibid.*) becomes *Collocalia maxima lowi* (Sharpe), 1879.

"*Collocalia lowi tichelmani* Stresemann, 1926" (Peters, *ibid.*) becomes *Collocalia maxima tichelmani* Stresemann, 1926.